

## Sunderland Selectboard Minutes

Monday, October 19, 2020

Attending: D. Pierce, T. Fydenkevez, S. Bergeron, G. Kravitz

Others present: L. Sillin, L. Starr, J. Skibiski, J. Houle, R. Warner, S. Schneider, P. Gagarin, L. Smith, J. Pelletier, A. Alsaadawi, A. Deng, R. Masse, A. Paul, M. DeClerck, L. Liataud, S. Simoglou

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:34PM.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve Selectboard minutes of October 13, 2020, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

MASSDOT UPDATE: Mr. Masse, MassDOT Project Development Engineer, reviewed the recent history of the intersection. The concepts presented included a single-lane roundabout and a two-lane roundabout. Data was presented on the capacity and wait times associated with both options. The safety benefits of a roundabout were discussed, as well as ways to control speeds for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Mr. Masse noted that the project was in the "pre-25%" design phase, is currently not funded, and would need to be on the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization's funding schedule, which is not likely until 2025. Mr. Masse also noted that as part of the process, MassDOT will conduct an intersection control evaluation to determine the best configuration for the intersection. Ms. Starr noted the importance of the visual link between North and South Main Street and noted that the long-term effects of COVID on UMass may result in fewer cars using the intersection. Ms. Sillin raised concerns about children being able to cross the street to get to the library and playing fields. It was noted that with a roundabout, pedestrians only have to be concerned with traffic moving in one direction at a time. Other issues that were raised included the ability to enter and exit the businesses located at the corners of the intersection, and the ability for trucks and farming equipment to navigate the intersection. The Board thanked Mr. Masse and MassDOT for the improvements that have already been made and noted a significant improvement since they went into effect.

MVP PLAN ADOPTION: Mr. Bergeron motion to adopt the MVP Plan and sign the resolution, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

RIVERSIDE PARK CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: Mr. Bergeron motion to sign the conservation restriction granting the Franklin Land Trust a conservation restriction on Riverside Park, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: No additional cases have been reported. The Town Administrator noted that the next round of municipal Coronavirus Relief Funds are available and recommended applying for the entire amount we the town is eligible for. Mr. Bergeron noted that it is important not just to spend the funds because they are there, but to have a plan. Mr. Fydenkevez supported applying for the full amount as part of a plan, but with sufficient resources to be flexible as pandemic-needs arise to support the schools, Board of Health, staff, and community overall. Mr. Kravitz also noted that a resource that may be available to the town as a "high risk"/red community is a local Stop the Spread testing site and possibly a mobile testing site, as well as the potential to work with nearby communities on a joint site.

BENCHMARKS FOR EMPLOYEE WAGE ADJUSTMENT AND COLA: The Town Administrator noted that updated Cherry Sheet estimates were released which level-funded school and local aid. Mr. Bergeron asked if assessments had gone up. There was a slight increase of a few thousand dollars, but not a significant increase.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator noted that Senator Comerford and Representative Blais were at two events in town. They held a "Suffrage Succotash" radio broadcast at Mike's Maze, at which the Town Clerk provided voting information. There was also a kayak trip down the Connecticut River to highlight the importance of this natural resource to the abutting communities.

### SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron noted that he received several calls from abutters regarding excess noise and group gatherings at North 116 Flats and asked to speak with them about what is being said in the community. He expressed the desire to

document the issues and present them to DHCD to reinforce that the town knew what type of housing was being proposed, and what the consequences would be, when it opposed the project and that we are now left to deal with the effects.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bergeron motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Kravitz', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator